

KATHERINE GRANTER

OPEN FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

MARGARET HENRY

Thursday 10am-12

GRETA MIGRANT CAMP AND NEWCASTLE.

Thursday 8th September.

## SUMMARY

Greta migrant camp benefitted the Newcastle region during and after its years of operation. The people who went through it are now useful contributors to our region's community. An industrial region has many blue collar jobs to fill and the migrants were a willing labour force. Because of the job opportunities in the industries the migrants have tended to stay in the Newcastle area. This has contributed to the size and spread of the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area. The migrants' varied cultures have added to our own culture's evolution.

Greta migrant camp gave many people a stepping stone into Australian society. The conditions of the camp were not lavish but the chances it gave people after devastated war-torn Europe were much appreciated. Foreigners were not as common before the refugees from Europe began to arrive. These people have developed Australia into the society it is now, their contribution helped the economy recover from a slump.

After the war the economy was deficient and slow to recover. There was a shortage of many materials, but the greatest shortage was manpower. For the economy to recover manufacturing locally was seen as important. Newcastle had always been seen as an manufacturing centre. B.H.P. and all its dependent industries needed manpower to get production and profit soaring as they moved back into private commission after working for the war effort.

At the same time a push for immigration was launched to increase the population. After the shock of Australia's vulnerability during the war, a larger population to defend our shores became an issue. Many of the migrants who immigrated were displaced persons who came out with refugee status. An agreement signed in July 1947 saw the Commonwealth government allotting ten pounds towards transporting each displaced person from the refugee camps. International Refugee Organization provided the shipping for the assisted migration. The world these migrants left behind was hardly recognizable as the homes they once had. Many had been through labour camps or concentration camps, and Greta was a better version of the camps they had been through. Many were thus initiated into a camp lifestyle and Greta gave them camp life Australian style. Here they first discovered our

eating habits and our other different ways. Greta camp gave them a first taste of Australian society, while protecting them from some of the adverse reactions in the community at large. The community reaction was very mixed, running the gamut of emotions. Traditional unionists felt immigrants would take men's jobs, while women's jobs did not concern them to the same extent. The receptions the immigrants received differed from person to person. Certainly the business managers were pleased to see them; here was a cheap labour force whom they could manipulate as they pleased. A bright future for business magnates was on the horizon.

The industries of steel and heavy engineering drew heavily on migrant labour; as did construction, mining and clothing industries. "The period 1947-1961 was vital for post-war reconstruction and the establishment of industry in Australia." "During the fifties the majority of manufactured goods we used were made in this country. Migrants were the major labour force for these factories. Because most of these industries occurred in town centres like Newcastle the migrants tended to settle in or near towns rather than in the Hunter Valley itself.

During this time there was rapid economy growth, and by the end of the fifties the prevailing housing shortage was overcome. With the manufacturing expansion more people were needed within travelling range of the factory sites. The building societies and banks handled many of the Greta migrants' loans. Often two separate families would take out a joint loan on a house. This way two families got started and later they

would sell the house and divide the profits or one partner would sell out their share. The Greta migrants moved into many of the suburbs being expanded during the fifties (e.g. Redhead, Warners Bay, Belmont, Argenton. They purchased and improved old homes in Mayfield, Hamilton, Broadmeadow, Adamstown, Georgetown, Waratah area.

The migrants came here often with only what they could pack in a suitcase. They worked hard to get their home and to get accepted by society. Many went into business of their own, others worked alongside Anglo-Australians. Working conditions in the heavy industries were not good, but the wage the migrants received was often more than they made in their old country. The exception to this were the professionals, whose qualifications were generally not recognized. The work in heavy industry could be dangerous and lack of English caused several accidents.

The local economy boomed, the area of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie increased as the suburbs sprawled. The industries tended to keep people around Newcastle rather than further away from the work. The area, in general with the rest of Australia at the time, urbanized and suburbanized.

The migrants added diversity to the culture. They caused a revolution in this society's eating and drinking habits, admittedly some cultures had more of an affect than others. Their work ethic and the way they toiled at achieving their new home in their chosen country gave them a good reputation.

Over 100,000 people went through Greta camp during its thirteen years of operation. Many of these people settled in this region, and now we have a very varied population. There

is a wider acceptance of diversity today, more so than when the migrants first came out of the camp.

"More than most countries in the post-war world, Australia has made use of immigrants and created a labour force that is marked by ethnic/cultural distinctions." The migrants tended to take the blue collar jobs, common in centres like Newcastle. They are therefore more important structurally to Newcastle than to a town like Singleton. There is no doubt that the Newcastle region benefitted from the Greta camp. Hopefully the same can be said of the migrants who did have job opportunities in this region. Many of them have acquired for themselves a respectable life style, in many cases more than they could have achieved in their country of origin.

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Date 24.8.88 .....

Interviewer Katherine Grantor ..... KMG Grantor



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SUMMARY OF TAPE.

Life in Greta migrant camp.

Interviewee: Anna Buldecki.

Thursday 8th September.

Anna Buldecki describes her experiences while in Greta camp, also her first impressions of Australia after arriving from Germany. Greta camp gave many people their first experience of Australia, though Anna herself had been to both Bonegilla and Parkes before Greta and before that had spent ten years in German labour camps. The migrant camps were used as a foundation stone for a life in Australia by the people who went through them.

Anna tells of the huts they lived in and gives us an idea of the living conditions of the camp. She explains the service routines of the kitchen, each one serving each other on alternate days; the camaraderie of the people who lived there and the great mix of people that were thrown together. There was a carefree exuberant atmosphere after surviving the war in Europe. They had hope for the future and worked towards it.

Anna was at the camp in 1952-53 however on the tape she gives the wrong year; 1949. It was thirty five years ago so Anna had some trouble remembering the details clearly. Also on the tape she said the camp did not have a laundry. Afterwards she remembered that the camp did have a laundry for personal clothing, but the linen still went to Maitland for laundering. Anna said on the tape that there was not much in the way of entertainment, but there were sportsfields which were popular with the children and the men, Anna herself was not a sports enthusiast.

Anna worked in the hospital and tells us about that area of the camp. The immigrant doctors were allowed to work in the hospital, but they were there only under the supervision

of an Australian doctor. The food in the hospital appears to be of a higher standard than the general camp kitchens. The people who worked on the staff (Anna was a cleaner) had to live in the staff huts. These were situated nearer to the hospital for convenience.

The people in Greta used to make their own entertainment with parties in empty huts, something which was not very popular with the commandant. They also had films shown in their canteen hall. The women would often go into Maitland by train or bus to shop, this of course gave them an outing at the same time. They also shopped for extra food at the camp canteen or the shop in Greta itself and they had a travelling greengrocer who drove his truck into Greta camp. All this gave them a wider choice of food than the kitchen usually served.

The men only came home once a fortnight from their designated jobs. As they saved up they were able to get suitable accommodation in the community somewhere and take their families out to live in society.

Anna's first impressions of Australia give a vivid description of a European immigrant's preconceived ideas and the reality of Australia at that time. The tape is a general description of Greta camp and a woman's impressions of it and Australia in the early fifties.

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TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE

Interviewee: Anna Buldecki

subject: life in Greta Migrant Camp

Thursday 8th September

Interviewer: I'm interviewing Anna Buldecki about life in Greta Camp. Anna what was life in Greta like for a family? because you had kids who were little.

Anna: Well we live in one room, we have 2 bed, I only have 1 child, and my husband was in Sydney, he only come home once a fortnight, so just the normal camp life.

Interviewer: Did you get on with everyone, was it a friendly atmosphere there?

Anna: Ah yeh, as usual you find some people they not much but we tried our best because its a camp. You can almost hear it behind the wall if people talk because there was no proper wall really, like it you know just a thin masonite, I can't remember what that stuff's called. Anyhow we used to go in the morning to get our food, we didn't eat at home we have to go to a kitchen.

Interviewer: Oh, so you went to a proper kitchen?

Anna: Yeh, to the kitchen.... We get dishes when we arrived at the camp. So we keep the dishes and every morning or dinner time or tea time we go and eat in the kitchen, but if you don't like it in the kitchen you can take your food home. You prefer it in the kitchen because of all the people sitting round the big tables and they have talk and things.... We used to get fruit, meat and then we went for the other stuff to eat. So we have to give it a hand, too, you see; one day, if for instance, I sit with the 2 women and her 2 children and the other women have 2 children in one table. So one day I was serving potatoes for the kitchen to help, to give them hand working, you know like a serving, and the next day she used to serve and the 3rd day the other woman used to serve and it went like that you see. It just, it, well was not that, that bad but to compare now how we live I think we will have everything that we like and we have, there: was no choice.

Interviewer: You just had to have what you had to?

Anna: Yeh. The worst thing was we couldn't get coffee, only tea, and in Europe we didn't drink much tea. I didn't even see tea with milk before I came here, tea and lemon and

That was very big news to me. But it was, it was not bad, we, what we used to get lot and it has to be said it because its true, mutton, mutton, mutton all over the place. I used to love it, people didn't like it, I used to love it and I didn't mind mutton, a lot of mutton. Food was not bad, you had to pay for it.

Interviewer: You did?

Anna: Yeh.

Interviewer: I didn't know that.

Anna: Yeh, we paid for it, yeh.

Interviewer: Did you work in the kitchen? like other than just serving, did you ever work in the kitchen?

Anna: Ng, no I didn't work really in the kitchen, I work in hospital as the cleaner.

Interviewer: And what was that, eh how many beds were in the hospital? like was it a big one or

Anna: Oh, was quite a fair big hospital, was mens' section and womens' section and childrens section and maternity section, yeh, where children was born.

Interviewer: I was going to ask you that.

Anna: But lot of women were working there, I was working where they make little operation, I sterilised instruments with the sister and things and cleaning and helping, it was quite good job, yeh.

Interviewer: And would you go there after breakfast or did you go there

Anna: Ah before breakfast I used to have to start early.

Interviewer: So it was a full day job?

Anna: Yeh, we get half hour, I think about half past nine, or something, to, no half past eight to go home but where I live I didn't live very far away from hospital. So if I clean it up quick I can run, if matron didn't see me, I run because I have Erenor, was only 4 years old. So I sent her to kindergarten, preschool sort of like, and then I locked the hut and I went again to work. Oh you get eh, it was not compulsory to give us dinner but you get dinner because in hospital, because there was a lot of food, it was just... well everybody worked, you try to help yourself with the money.

Interviewer: Was there any shift work? did you work there at night or was it just a day job?

Anna: No I was supposed to work at the children's ward as a nurse's aide, and when they told me I was supposed to do the shift, so I didn't agree because I have a too small child. So I went cleaning. I stayed there, I think, nearly 1 year, and then when they were laying off the girls and boys and whoever worked up there they cut it off - the staff - and they lay us off, so that

Interviewer: Were they cutting down on the camp, the whole of the camp, or were they just putting people off?

Anna: No, in the hospital, just the hospital I think, just the hospital they cut it off, short staff, they took some off. It's just that long time I couldn't remember, it's all... In the hospital for instance the big operation, they used to send people to Maitland. See after the operation we rinse all the dirty linen and they were taken to Maitland too, to the laundry. You see everything was like connected to Maitland. Doctor Hurst, Hoarse, I don't know now even how to pronounce his name properly, I think Doctor Hurst, he used to come to the camp to have to do the operations, like when somebody have something wrong with their arm maybe and he used to send people to Maitland to operate up there too, he come from Branxton, that's all.

Interviewer: So there would have been a few kids born at the camp, wouldn't there, babies?

Anna: Oh yeh, children, lot of children were born, a lot, a lot, there was all young couple, they was just married, some did have children, mostly they did have children, yeh, but by the time they went from camp they have about 2-3 children.

Interviewer: What was the school like, was it a big school there they had

Anna: Oh they have school, I don't know nothing much about school but Irene used to go to kindergarten and I used to go and see there how they, there was one lady there she play with the children, they got the mattresses on the floor, they have their lunch there or whatever, break fast when they're early and they have their spell when dance, dancing like children, like little children, and they can have their rest 1 hour on those mattresses, they were lying on the

Floor.

Interviewer: Their nap.

Anna: Yeh, their nap.

Interviewer: What was the social organisation of the camp? Did you have any dances or any parties or anything?

Anna: Oh yeh we have dances. Oh we used to make our own parties in the camp, when those men come from the city, they only come once a fortnight, yeh, we was all young and there was nobody really to tell you cannot drink, you cannot smoke, you just keep going and living like you didn't care about nothing, you just was happy you was out from the war, you see

Interviewer: You'd be happy to see Alec, too.

Anna: Yeh, like, to say now, really it was like a heaven open to us, you see, because up there where we was in Germany we didn't know if we wake up in the morning, there was bombs falling and things you know, everything was bad, but here when they come to the camp there was big dances always held in the canteen hall, where the canteen was there was big hall, oh really big and really happy, but we used to have a party in the hut. There was sometimes lot of huts standing empty because the family moved out or something, so we put a few tables there and we have, we just go, yes singing and ah doing some stupid things because your young. IF I tell you for instance I used to do silly things, a lot of silly things, we used to go sliding boat or swing in the park with the other woman, thats what I like it in the night time and the children sleep, we went, it was not far away and I told other woman next door if she cry to have a look on her, and we was sliding down on the sliding boat... There was not that much, you see there was no T.V., hardly anybody got radio, it was just you and your child and its just, was not, couldn't say it was bad but it was not much promising life, you just live from one day to the other day, and you was happy you was alive and we have enough to eat and nobody bother us, thats it... Our linen was washed too in the laundry, we get change eh I think every week sheets and the pillow cases we have to take to the store and we got clean ones.



Interviewer: But you had a laundry there? you didn't take, you know, how you took the other sheets from the hospital.

Anna: I don't know how they wash in the camp, I think, I don't think the camp have laundry, they took them away too.

Interviewer: They took them to Maitland?

Anna: Yeh, I don't remember about laundry, that's honestly can not tell you, but I know they took.... but that's a lot of people, they couldn't wash, they have to have a big laundry.... but our bathroom was a quite a way from the camp, from the huts and the toilet everything, so every morning we have to go. It take maybe 3 or 4 minutes running there. It was all in the middle and either side was huts. It's not much now to tell you, see it's just

Interviewer: Where there many people there when you were there?

Anna: Oh yeh, lot of people.

Interviewer: Roughly could you say, approximately?

Anna: Oh god, wouldn't have no idea.

Interviewer: Quite a lot?

Anna: Lot.

Interviewer: Different lots of different nationalities?

Anna: First we live in chocolate and then we went to silver city and we have to live on the staff, staff have their huts, close to the hospital. So there we were supposed to live when we work for hospital in these huts but the food we got just the same as the other people, camp people, only doctor and the other, not the nurses, sister they got in the hospital kitchen it was different food, nicer and everything, you know, table nice covered, everything was different, nicer, but there was no.... There was a lot of our doctors but they just worked underneath Australian doctor you see, there was lots, Hungarian doctor, Polish, Ukrainian, there were real doctors there, they got papers and everything but they couldn't work by themselves.

Interviewer: But they were allowed to work in the hospital? they were recognised?

Anna: Yeh, but under somebody, controlled till they go to, they have to do, I think 2 years train till they get their real papers to work here as

the doctors, yeh.

Interviewer: There would have been a lot of professionals.

Anna: Yeh teachers and engineering and things but they all went to work, have to work outside.

Interviewer: Labourers.

Anna: Yeh, somewhere, whatever they give them. You see we was told in Germany when they told us there was nothing, sort of they lied to us, they told us "you go to Australia and your husband have to work 2 years contract, doesn't matter where they send him, you have to stay in camp." So when we go to Bonegilla Alex was send to Sydney, then they took me to Parkes and my husband was still working in Sydney, on the road, a mine road, and they took me to Greta and he was still working on the mine road, then from Greta he went to the steelworks

Interviewer: What B.H.P.

Anna: Yeh, he work 23 years at B.H.P.

Interviewer: And while he was working there did he go to Greta? go home at night, still?

Anna: No, ah no, before he start working at B.H.P. he took me away from Greta. He got the job, he was acquired for the job and they put him on the list, so he get the job. So we find room here, we live in Barnsley, right up the top, just near the school. So he took me out and he work at B.H.P. and I stay at home.

Interviewer: Was there much transport to and from the camp while you were in it?

Anna: Yeh we have buses, yeh buses, you can go buses or you can go Greta and you can go by train to Maitland, you didn't go anywhere faraway, you just go to Maitland and back. The men when they used to come on the weekend, they used to go across the paddocks up to Lochinvar and there was that pub there, they call it Bethlehem and it was so popular everybody when they saw each other walking somewhere they say "where you going?", "across the railway, you know, through the paddock, up the road to Bethlehem", they say "I'm going to the Bethlehem." That was the name of it. Oh was lot of Runny things up there, you see people young and from all different countries and culture and everything, and everybody knew

Something different from somebody else.

Interviewer: Did you all understand each other, you know, did you coming from the different countries?

Anna: No, no, lot of people speak german because they work in Germany, you see, I got real good friend, she was Hungarian and we talk german together because we couldn't understand each other, even we couldn't talk english you see, and a lot of people talk like a, from Estonia, Latvia they talk russian and once they talk russian we can understand them, Polish and Ukrainian people or some other, all slavianian, its a similar that language, you don't understand everything but you can put two and two together and you get somewhere you see, but mostly they talk a lot of german in between because they couldn't understand, they didn't know how to talk english and you knew how to talk german, so

Interviewer: And um did you have a school for learning english?

Anna: Oh yeh, yeh we have to, I already tell you matron say if we don't learn english we won't have a job, so the kitchen staff, everybody, that was told you have to go to school, I think twice a week, ah for 2 hour, only ah nobody real bothered, we thought oh we don't need it, but we did. Well we learn little bit up there, kids used to go to school, some of the people they come here they already talk english you see, they teach them their language and their language because they already talk english but a lot of people didn't talk english. To us it seems, I remember, I have to say that, I remember I used to stand and listen to the worker, they work on the road digging pipe or something and they talk english and I was listening and I thought to myself, oh I was only young 26 years old, I thought to myself did they, I wonder if they understand each other what they saying, that what the language seems to me. When we left Germany I remember I only knew: knife, thank you, goodnight and goodmorning, thats what I learned, they even teach us in Germany english before we go to Australia, they used to say you need that when you get out there because you couldn't talk to people, but we didn't care much, we were young and we thought huh. What more?

Interviewer: What were the rules of the camp? where there many rules that you had to stay within?

Anna: No, as far as I recall, no, we can walk and go wherever we wanted, we used, there was one, a canteen in Greta if you wanted something and there was canteen in the camp if you wanted something, we used to buy extra food because sometimes you didn't like it what kitchen served so we went to the canteen to get things, even chocolate and lollies and things like that.

Interviewer: Did you go out to Maitland much or did you ever come down to Newcastle or just as an outing?

Anna: No ah I went, yeh, once I come to Newcastle to swim, yeh somebody invited me to come from Wallsend, so we went swimming at, with my little girl. I was too scared of the sea, I never swim in the sea and I'm not very good swimmer. But we used to go to Maitland to get dresses and shoes and buy things you know for kids, oh we used to go to Maitland a lot. Once they have, eh I couldn't, it called organisation and all the Australian women they hired bus and they were looking in the camp for some woman to go with them to represent Greta, so they took me and another 2 women up to Cessnock. That's the first time I saw Cessnock and I never saw him since! I went for holiday to Sydney, my husband took me for 2 week when he have a holiday, I went a few times to Sydney to stay there a little bit.

Interviewer: Did you have to supply your own clothing, did you have to pay for it all? shoes and

Anna: Yeh, yeh, yeh but when we come to Australia I think, 12 item, they give it to us.

Interviewer: Oh, yeh?

Anna: Like a shoes and things you can, you can pick it up whatever you need, dress and things, that was given to us in the beginning, the clothes, but after that we have to buy every thing we bought, well the men were working and they were getting money so you buy your clothes.

Interviewer: What did you do for special occasions, Christmas or birthdays or weddings or whatever? can you remember?

Anna: I don't remember any weddings because usually come all the young couples already married there, I don't know, my friend, she married in Greta but I don't really remember what was happening, but Christmas, well all the men coming home and we celebrated

in our own European ways, still everything was inside, we out now a little bit of that you know, not that many tradition but usually you see next door people are good friends, they were like a mother or sister to you because you didn't have a family really you see, and after the war people sort of like each other a lot you see, friendly and happy and I don't know to me it looks something, we change terribly lot, all people, you see we used to like each other more after war than now.

Interviewer: Well you'd been through all the war

Anna: It was more feeling in it you see. Oh we celebrate Christmas and Easter and we paint the egg and we done all the different kind of things. And we have a lot of happy occasions and sad occasions, you see all different ways, different traditions you know.

Interviewer: Well there would be how many different nationalities?

Anna: Yeh country, everybody have their different ways.

Interviewer: They'd all have, yes.

Anna: Yeh. But to say there was not much entertaining there, oh we got pictures.

Interviewer: Oh you went to the pictures?

Anna: Yeh in the hall where we was dancing they used to bring

Interviewer: Oh so they brought the pictures to you?

Anna: Yeh yeh yeh lot of pictures, what we even see now the old pictures. Yeh and you can go to pictures, I don't remember if you pay for the pictures or if it just was free. Yeh, we pay to go in, tickets, because its that long you just never thought you going to recall everythings back what was happening there. yeh.

Interviewer: Yes it was a good while ago.

Anna: Yeh.

Interviewer: When were you actually there then?

Anna: We come to Barnsley in 1950. I think '49.

Interviewer: '49

Anna: '49 from '48, like 1½ years I think we been there.

Interviewer: 48-49?

Anna: Yeh something like that, maybe not quite one and a half year but quite, quite awhile yeh I was in Greta yeh.

Interviewer: So you were there when it was fairly new as a camp?

Anna: No.

Interviewer: It had been an army camp before, I know.

Anna: Yeh but before we come in there was a lot of people leaving, before us they already left from there, when we come they was already leaving one by one, they get the job somewhere, they get the private accomodation and they took the wives out but eh you still have a lot of people and they move from one another camp and they brought the new people in.

Interviewer: Yes, shuffled them around from camp

Anna: Yeh, from camp to camp. You didn't have a nothing, you have a port, in the room where you live there was nothing in it, there was just 2 bed, not even table and there was that shelf where we used to hang our clothes with the curtain and thats all, you didn't, that was the easiest life what you ever live in your life because you didn't have nothing, you didn't care about nothing. You was hopeing you going out from there and you have your own something, that's all.

Interviewer: Well you had to go from camp to camp when they told you to, didn't you?

Anna: Oh yeh, yeh.

Interviewer: You didn't get any choice?

Anna: No, no, no they call us and they say we have to go and so, they didn't move us like animal or anything but they told us we have to go so we get our things together and we went from Bonegilla to Parkes and we stay in Parkes I don't know how long in Parkes, I can't, not very long, and it was hot up there, hot and dusty, all the red dust, then in Greta Greta was the popular one.

Interviewer: What where your first impressions then? Coming from Poland or rather Germany, out here, because the country and all was so different?

Anna: You want to know, really know, I tell you something you wouldn't believe it, from Victoria where we, from the port in Melbourne where we went, where our ship stopped, they took us and put us in the train and all the way to

Bonegilla, I couldn't recall how far is that or whatever because you have to look in the map and to follow how, what way the train go, I sit near the window and I keep crying and crying and crying I couldn't stop. I just saw one house in the field somewhere in the paddock and then we went for mile and mile. Lot of rabbit, kangaroo, big cactus, what we didn't see in Europe and that business, and I say to my husband "that's all what we going one house here and a few mile further another house there was no home" they must have been farms but that's what we didn't know how they spread. But lot of rabbit, oh god if you saw through the window when the train was, everywhere was rabbit and a lot of possum in Victoria, they so bad up there they even come into your room, lot of possum and nobody bothers them and they don't bother you, they like chocolate and apple. Animal what we didn't see and was very big surprise to us you see, and the big spread country its almost empty.... when you looking from the train it was just, that's how I cry, I saw its a wilderness its nothing much but when the ship was standing there, there was a lot of people and a lot of building and we think its not different to somewhere else but to go to the camp that was different. And when we come to the camp they give us about 7 blankets each and I was standing with my husband and look, and I say to Alex "what do they give us blankets for", you know those grey blankets what soldier use, "that's too many, what for that heap of blankets?"

Interviewer: Did you arrive in summer?

Anna: No in 29th June, June July no July, that's mistake July, 29th of July, and that's winter time and by the time we went to bed it was cold even under the seven blankets! We couldn't lift our legs, we was cold, and we say "that's Australia to you." And I tell you what I done too, when we live in camp in Germany we used to get from the red cross clothes, I think its every 3 months they call us and give us some clothes, America and Australia... I don't know... England used to send the clothes for the people in the camp, and I have a nice coat, warm, I sold every thing up there for fruit,

for things like that, just to keep alive, I thought Australia's a hot country you don't need those things, and when we got to Victoria was cold, you need those things.

Interviewer: What was your impression of Greta much the same as the other camps?

Anna: Yeh, only bigger yeh, yeh they're mostly the same. Only where we live in Parkes there I used to live in those round things, those tin round things, not the hut, pretty hot that business, but it's nice inside if you put things in and try to paint pictures and things on the wall, it looks nice inside, but outside it look like a barrow. And the fruito used to come, ah Australian man, with the car used to come to the camp so we can buy fruit. We used to get fruit in the kitchen but that's only 1 apple for the child or 1 orange or 1 banana or something like that see, but we used to buy it, fruit, so he pulled his truck, little truck, in the camp and selling fruit to the people.

Interviewer: Did you get the baker or anything like that or the milko or did that go through the kitchen?

Anna: No that's go to the kitchen, but you still can buy in the canteen things that you needed, they mostly have everything up there.

Interviewer: How where you treated there ah at the camp?

Anna: You have your ups and downs because sometimes it was like that, you live in one hut and they told you to go and move to another one hut, they move people around and you didn't like it because you just put your things up and every thing and sort like, you didn't like the people because you didn't know them, you have friends of them next door, and that's how the trouble started.